

# 189th

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ANNUAL SESSION OF THE  
PHILADELPHIA AND BALTIMORE  
CONFERENCE

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The Report of  
**The Rev. Dr. Rita J. C. Colbert, Presiding Elder**  
Washington District



## **“Reviewing the Practices of The Freedom Church”**

*Scriptural Focus: Deuteronomy 4:5-8*

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**Bishop W. Darin Moore**, Presiding Prelate

**Mrs. Devieta C. Moore**, Missionary Supervisor

**Bishop Michael A. Frencher**, Associating Bishop

**Mrs. Gelenia Frencher**, Associating Missionary Supervisor





“So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for people had a mind to work.” *Nehemiah 4:6*

“See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?”

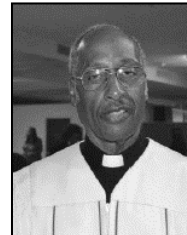
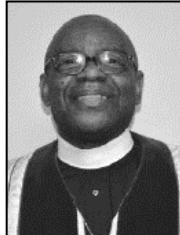
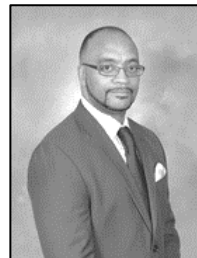
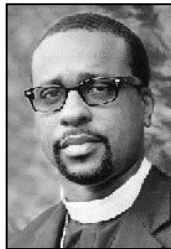
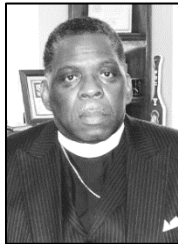
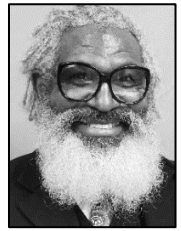
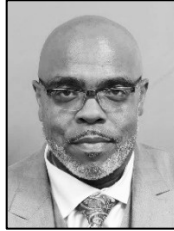
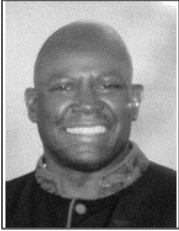
Deuteronomy 4:5-8 (NIV)

## 2018 WASHINGTON DISTRICT REPORT

### REVIEWING THE PRACTICES OF THE FREEDOM CHURCH

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*The Mission of the Washington District is to empower, enable and equip its member congregations to recruit, develop, train and nurture Disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ*



# 2018 Washington District Report - United in Purpose

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## The Freedom Church: Refocusing Our Practices

*The Mission of The Washington District Is to Empower, Enable and Equip Its Member Congregations to Recruit, Develop, Train and Nurture Disciples for The Lord Jesus Christ.*

As a people, a nation, a faith community-we have had to come to grips with more and more people looking to the church for answers to foreclosures, food shortages, lack of affordable healthcare and shelter.

The best of times is overshadowed for some by what may seem like the worst of times. Yet it is in these times when the people of God can be there most effective. It is a time of giving more than we receive and trusting God in the process. The Washington District provides ministry support to diversified congregations in Washington, DC and nearby Maryland. The name Washington District draws your attention to the Nation's Capital, which is defined by imposing neoclassical monuments and buildings – including the widely recognized ones that house the federal government's 3 branches: the Capitol, White House and Supreme Court. It's also home to well established museums and performing-arts venues such as the Kennedy Center. It is the home of the Monument. But you and I know that there is much ministry to be done in the shadow of the Monument that is the other side of the Cherry Blossom Trees and Michelin rated restaurants.

I am most grateful for the commitment of the pastors and laity of this great District. Wherever I go they are well known and respected. Some people inquire as to what it is like being the Presiding Elder of this powerhouse of a District. I can tell them without reservations that we work toward doing what God is requiring of us so we have little time for nurturing conflict and confusion. Every Church on this District is an active part of community. They are not just in the community but are a part of the community. With clothing, feeding, tutoring, counseling and other community building ministries throughout the District we are well aware we are just touching the tip of the needs of the many.

The Washington District Summary Report does not lift up any particular ministry over another nor give individual accolades, although they would be most appropriate. But the focus for the next few minutes is beyond this present moment

but is intended to challenge us to want more so that we may do more for God. It is with a prophet purpose that we come together as a Conference during this Season of Pentecost in the Christian Church, for the Annual Conference serves not only to summon us to an accounting of the temporal affairs of the Church but also the Spiritual Affairs.

At the close of the day, after the services have been completed, the reports read, licenses renewed, and the awards given, someone will ask who are they that gathered together under the banner of the Washington District and what did they accomplish? My prayer is that the response will be: “the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cured,

the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side.” Please receive this report of the Washington District.

# REVIEWING OUR PRACTICES

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## Christian Education

*Reverend Delmar Lytle*

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The benediction of the Christian Education Department is "Every member a Christian - every Christian a Worker- a worker trained that need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus name." The Christian Education department of the Washington District has strived to make this statement a reality by actively participating in Christian Education on the local, district, conference, regional and connectional levels throughout the conference year.

Departments of Christian Education are active in many of our congregations across the district. While the size and demographics of our local churches vary, many of our churches have adapted and developed effective ministries to serve and advance the work of building credible Disciples of Christ. One area of focus across the District continues to be on our youth and young adult populations. As educators, we understand the dynamics and balancing act many of our youth and young adults face. Therefore, we are striving and continue to seek new opportunities to effectively engage and minister to these populations.

The Department- in conjunction with the lay council, evangelism and missionary societies - participated in the Back to School Rally in August at St. Lucille. The Christian Education Department was able to supply over 50 backpacks and supplies for our children across all grades. During the instruction portion of the meeting, the children and youth were able to express their thoughts on bullying via art, and the Christian Education department lead a discussion about bullying that was well received.

For Christian Education month, the Department held an afternoon service in September at Contee. The service was sponsored by the young adults and featured a psalmist and spoken word artist. We are grateful to the St. Lucille church choir, Rev. Dr. Hanna Broome and the Contee church for a very rich and impactful worship experience.

On regional and connectional levels, members of the district attended and participated in the Eastern Region Meeting in Pittsburg, PA. Additionally, the district hosted the eastern region meeting of ACE (Assembly of Christian Educators) in November at John Wesley. Members of the district were asked to present on the topic "Creating Credible Disciples in Love". Members



of the district also attended and participated in the Christian Education Mid-Winter meeting in Atlanta in December.

The highlight of the conference year occurred during our “District at Study” time in February. Instead of having a separate convocation and Black History program, the department worked in conjunction with the Missionary Society to organize the day to accomplish the intended outcome. Following Missionary Mass Meeting, Rev. Mark Thomas discussed the concept of Sabbath from the book *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren Winner, which was highlighted during the Spiritual Emphasis week in January. Following Rev. Thomas presentation, Rev. Stacey Lytle facilitated a panel discussion on the topic of hospitality and welcoming those disenfranchised by the church. The panel included a youth; a person wounded by the church but still loves God, and a minister who is LGBTQAI. During the lunch hour, each church developed Black History displays for the walking history museum. All departments participated, and the event was well attended.

Members of the previous district youth council participated in events throughout the conference year. While they were not as active as envisioned, I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their service and representing the district in Atlanta. We look forward to working with the newly elected council in the upcoming conference year for ways to engage more youth in the work of Christian Education. As Christian Educators, we thank you for attending every meeting, training opportunity, conference call and service as we strived to create effective ministry opportunities to promote Christian living. We are anticipating even greater works in 2018-2019.

Thank you for your patience as our family increased, and for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

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## Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society

*Wilhelmina Frazier*

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To Presiding Elder Rita J. Colbert, Pastors, General, Conference, and District Officers (Past and Present), Ministers, local officers, members and friends of then Washington District Conference “Summit”, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

It is with great pride and humility to be given the opportunity to serve on the Washington District. I am thankful to God for giving me the strength and endurance to serve on the GREAT district and for putting hard working and dedicated people in my path. I am grateful to Presiding Elder Colbert for her perseverance, patience, and support of the Washington District Missionary Society. She continues to push us out of our comfort zone to make disciples for Christ. Many thanks to Mr. Vernon Colbert who always gives encouraging words in all of our efforts to lift the lost and the least. I am thankful to all the Pastors, ministers, local societies, Christian Education workers, Evangelists, and Lay members, for supporting and cooperating with the Missionary Society as we strive to reach the masses and share Christ and our resources throughout our various communities and the world. Finally, I am honored and thankful to serve with wonderful resilient Past and Present General Officers, District Officers and Executive Board members. We're all a team on a mission to "Win the World for Christ."

My stewardship is as follows:

- Attended all Check-Up Meetings.
- Attended the Mid Atlantic Leadership Institute in Norfolk, Virginia.
- Attended Missionary Day at Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church.
- Attended the Uncommon Heights Gala.
- Attended the NCNW Convention.

Did a presentation on the Quadrennial Theme for the Union Wesley A.M.E. Zion Missionary Society and on "What it Means to be a Christian and a Missionary."

Spoke at the "Crowder for International President" on behalf of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Annual Conference.

The **First Quarterly Mass Meeting** and **Back-to School Prayer Rally** was held at Saint Lucille A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. David Elliott, Host Pastor. Following the business session, Mrs. Annette Chisolm a mission study game called "May I – Did God Say So." The message of the game was to help us to understand that God gives us another chance. Afterwards Rev. Delmar Lytle, Director of Christian Education, did a presentation on Bullying. Children made posters and did a presentation on Anti-Bullying. After the Bullying workshop, everyone gathered outside on the church lawn to pray for the community, school workers and parents. Health screening were available and school supplies were given to children in the community and children in attendance from the Washington District.

The **Second Quarterly Mass Meeting** was hosted by Full Gospel A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. David DeVerteuil, Pastor. We had Mission Study and Veteran's Day Recognition by Mrs. Annette Chisolm. Following Mission Study, Mrs. Kendra Young-Freeman, District Coordinator of YAMS, introduced Ms. Evelyn Bush, our workshop presenter. Ms. Bush gave valuable information on Human Trafficking and its effects on our community. The defining model: A-M-P (Act-Means-Purpose) delineates the methods of what, how, and why women/men and children become controlled by trafficking. The youth gave a summary of what human trafficking is. The BUDS did a skit on human trafficking and what to do if someone tries to force them to leave home. District missionaries provided items for the Full Gospel "Horn of Plenty" Ministry. Blood Pressure screening was available sponsored by the Washington District Health Ministry, under the leadership of Mrs. Linda Pettaway, District Health Coordinator.

The **Third Quarterly Mass Meeting** was held at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church, Rev. Dr. Timothy Freeman, host Pastor. This meeting was held in conjunction with the District at Study and Black History Celebration sponsored by the Christian Education Department. Everyone was asked to wear red in recognition of Women's Heart Health also in observance of Agape month. Mrs. Sandra Baker, Second Mile Coordinator, gave us information on the Agape Celebration. Our presenter/speaker was Dr. Patricia Davidson, a medical internist and cardiologist. She gave us pointers on what we need to do to live a healthy life, mainly healthy eating and exercise. She reminded us that our bodies are God's temple and we need to take care of our temple. The health team, under the leadership of Mrs. Linda Pettaway, distributed information on matters of the heart. The outreach for this meeting was to support Trinity's outreach ministry – "Thrive D.C. who serves anyone in need. District missionaries provided underwear, socks, and toiletries. They offer daily meals, showers, telephone and email access, transportation, assistance with medicine, etc. Many consumers attend Trinity.

The **Fourth Mass Meeting** was held at Contee A.M.E. Zion Church.

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## Washington District Lay Council

*President: Robert Edmonds*

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Presiding Elder Dr. Rita J. Colbert, Pastors, Ministers, Lay Officers and Laity, I would like to thank you for your support of the Washington District Lay Council during the conference year. The Washington District Sylvia Dark Lay Servant Leadership Award was held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Contee A.M.E. Zion Church. The host Pastor Rev. Mark Thomas was supportive and offered the District Lay Council whatever was needed to be sure that the celebration was a blessing to the Washington District, and the recipient of the Lay Servant Leadership Award. We were blessed with a full house, and a reception was held following the celebration. Each local Pastor highlighted the accomplishment of their Servant Leader. The Honorees were blessed to share with their church, family and friends.

We are pleased to report that the Washington District Lay Council attended the first Mass Meeting that was held at the St. Lucille A.M.E. Zion church. We participated in the back to School Rally, on Friday evening's preparation, and on Saturday during the Back to School Rally. Listed below are some of the highlights of Lay Council activities in reported by the local church Presidents

- Lay offering of \$1,000.00 given in support of Clinton College
- Members attended the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Training in Norfolk, VA
- Members supported the Washington District Planning Meeting
- Hosted Council of Churches ecumenical service and reception
- Supported the Board of Bishops and International Ministers and Lay Association meeting in Norfolk, VA
- Women's Prayer Breakfast, in collaboration with the Contact Ministry.
- Had a Lay Academy in January which was very well attended. We invited our President of the Washington District, Bro. Robert Edmonds, Varick AME Zion Church, as our guest speaker. Everyone participated and enjoyed the academy.

Galbraith had a successful Lay Day on October 15, 2017. Dr. Marti Doneghy, our speaker, brought an enlightening message. Mrs. Marie Neville, a life-long member was recognized as our Lay Servant Leader for 2017. We have been concentrating on "Know Your Church". The culminating presentation will be by Dr. Helen Scott Allen. Our Lay Council membership remains strong.

- Represented R.L. Jones at the Lay Council Award Celebration-October 28, 2017
- R.L. Jones Community Impact Day-November 18, 2017
- R.L. Jones Community Fellowship Luncheon-December 17, 2017
- Black History/ Caribbean Month Celebration-Feb18th, 2018
- R. L. Jones A.M.E. Zion Church Mrs. Mary Kimbrough, President
  - Gave a \$50 donation to support the church Vacation Bible School.
  - Conducted a membership drive and increased the membership from 57 to 92.
  - Created a ministry brochure describing the mission and goals of the Lay Council.
  - Developed a fact sheet with pertinent but little-known information about the Lay Council
  - Observed Lay Sunday on the 3rd Sunday in October during morning worship. The speaker was Mrs. Marjorie Kinard from John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church.
  - Caribbean Missionaries Give-back "Run for Fun" Caribbean Cruise-Feb 24-March 3, 2018.
  - Members participated in the District Lay Servant Leadership Awards Program. The Culinary Ministry of Zion Wesley was the 2017 Sylvia Dark Lay Servant Leaders.
  - A number of the members of the Lay Council attended the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Conference in October 2017 in Norfolk, Va.
  - Began disseminating local and denomination Lay Council information to the church at large on a bulletin board located in the lower level of the church.
  - Gave financial support to the Annual Conference Black and Gold Banquet in March 2018 (Six members who were scheduled to travel to Salisbury, Maryland to attend the banquet were unable to do so because of the severe weather condition and travel hazards that weekend). Union Wesley A.M.E. Church Yvonne Baskerville, President

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## Prison Ministry Report

*Rev. Eddie Scarborough*

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- Over 2.2 million individuals are in jail or prison in the United States.
- Approximately 95% of incarcerated individuals are eventually released into local communities nationwide.
- Finding stable employment is crucial to ensuring that individuals do not reoffend.
- Having a record reduces the likelihood of a job callback or offer by as much as 50 percent.
- White men with a criminal record are more likely to get an interview than Black men with no criminal record.
- In 2014, the imprisonment rate for African American women (109 per 100,000) was more than twice the rate of imprisonment for white women (53 per 100,000).<sup>3</sup>
- Hispanic women were incarcerated at 1.2 times the rate of white women (64 vs. 53 per 100,000).

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## Department of Evangelism

*Reverend Dr. Timothy Freeman*

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To Presiding Elder Colbert, Mr. Colbert, all Pastors, Ministers and Officers of the Washington District, I greet you in the one whose name is above every name in that of our Lord and Savior Jesus whom is the Christ. This has been a very active, busy and dynamic year for all and especially the Department of Evangelism and Church Growth. There have been several attempts to pull the committee together throughout the year for strategic planning. Beginning with the Evangelism accolades must be given to Revs. Peaks and Shroud for the evangelistic efforts throughout the conference year. This is their first year as Co-Directors for this ministry and they have been dedicated, committed and tenacious towards accomplishing their goals. They have had several conference calls and meetings to develop and plan their evangelistic efforts and while there have been challenges I must applaud them for continuing to work towards the goal in God's kingdom. While it was initially planned for one or both directors to attend the Evangelistic Conference in Black Mountain secondary to changes on the denominational level this goal did not materialize. However, they planned and executed a day of Prayer at Union Wesley and it was a moment of ministry that allowed the district to gather for prayer and intent focus on our ministry goals as we close out this conference year.

The Church Growth committee will hopefully be able to have more focused intent strategic plans in the coming year. There was an exploration of possible ministry opportunities in Southern Maryland towards Waldorf however there are many challenges with new ministry in that county. The Charles County area is ripe for growth and there is no presence of the AME Zion Church but launching ministry in this area will take more careful examination and methodical strategies to initiate ministry. At the last check-up meeting there was a presentation about a conference re-alignment of districts and when and if this restructuring happens with the approval of the Presiding Elder we will explore new ministry opportunities in that new formula. This was a great year, and much more could have been done but with God's grace and another opportunity to engage in this work change and growth can become actualized.

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## State of The Church Report

*Reverend Andre' Green*

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To Presiding Elder Rita Colbert, Pastors, District Officers and Delegates, I beg leave to make the following report:

As we begin this State of the Church Report 2018, we begin with a question which is asked by believers and unbelievers, Christians and non-Christians, churchd and unchurchd alike; what is the purpose of the church? Acts 2:42 gives us what the purpose of the church should be, stating, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers".

According to this verse, the purpose of the church is, teaching biblical doctrine, providing a place of fellowship, observing the Lord's Supper and praying. The tenets of this verse is found in what we call the "means of grace", those things or means through which God gives His grace invisibly in disciples, those who are committed to following Him by guiding, strengthening and confirming faith. According to John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, the "means of grace" can be divided into two (2) categories, experienced or shared individually and communally. They are works of piety, to include, prayer and fasting, searching/reading scriptures and healthy living; additionally, the communal practices of communion and baptism; the works of mercy which focuses on individual needs of good works, visiting the sick and imprisoned, feeding and clothing those in need, to include general and societal needs of seeking justice and opposing slavery as seen in scriptures of Matthew 25:36-40 and Micah 6:8

Also, the purpose of the church is to equip believers in Christ with the tools they need to overcome sin and remain free from the pollution of the world as well make Disciples. A valuable tool which began the Methodist Movement, thus becoming the Methodist Church was the Class Leader System. The Class Leader System was effective in growing the church, but now due to the system not being used as a catalyst for spiritual growth in the lives of the people in the local church, rather in many cases just to collect quarterly conference dues; it has become ineffective throughout this conference and beyond. This system was started in 1742 as a way to pay off a building in Bristol, London, by dividing the church into groups and collecting a penny from those who were able to afford it.

But it was later discovered that the people called Methodists were not keeping the General Rules which were to do no harm, do good and practice the means of grace. Mr. John Wesley decided that the best people suited to address the lack of discipline were the leaders and their duties were also described in the General Rules. (General Rules, pages 19-21, 2016 AME Zion Church Book of Discipline) These class meetings were held to hold the people accountable of the general rules; it was a place where every Methodist weekly answered the question, "How is it with your soul", which has since been rephrased, "How is your life with God" and it was the place where Methodist were encouraged to give weekly to the poor. (Class Leader Meeting, pages 105-106, 2016 AME Zion Church Book of Discipline)

As the early church invited people into their lives and was willing to become transparent with others so that together they would grow into grace; as they were committed to the idea and concept that the Christian life is a journey of growth in grace and sanctification towards Christian Perfection; as they believed they needed one another in order to persevere on this journey, could it be as a result of our churches not honoring this system as it was intended our churches have become cold and dry and without the presence and demonstration of the Holy Spirit working and moving in the lives of the people; could it be that holy living is a thing of the past and finally, could it be there is no accountability for each other or have we become a church, a people, according to II Timothy 3:2, who have a form of godliness but denying the power thereof? Unfortunately, the answer to these questions is a resounding yes! In fact, John Wesley was quoted, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out". The class leader system is vital to the spiritual growth of the church and the people of which it serves. Another



question that is being asked is, "Is the church still relevant, particularly, the Black Church? Jesus said to Peter emphatically, "Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" is proof the church is and continues to be relevant today! And yes, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Freedom Church, as it is known, is as relevant today as it was at its inception in 1796. The church is still the center of our communities; she still remains a part of the fight and struggle against poverty, violence, injustices and inequality. The church is the hub and continues to be the gathering place where people are nourished and nurtured on this walk with God as well as meeting the needs of this 21st century. In this era of this present administration, referred to as "Trumpism", the church must continue to be as vigilant as ever to help rid the injustices seen in health care and education, tax reform and against all other forms of oppression against black and brown people and people of color in our communities. The church must continue to be on guard and prepare herself to be a refuge for these times in which we live. The church must be ready to receive and meet the needs, both physically and spiritually, of those who are often marginalized, to include, those with criminal offenses, the unemployed and uneducated, those single mothers and others who will undoubtedly run to the church in these troubled times; she must ever be ready to serve this present age! 'Tis the ark Ship of Zion .... she has landed many of thousands!

#### Recommendations:

1. We recommend that each local church will reenergize and reestablish the class leader system in the local church. This committee suggests that the pastor of the local church will begin by teaching and by selecting persons as leaders who are of sound judgement and who are truly devoted to God. Refer to the 2016 AME Zion Church Book of Discipline, page 105-106
2. We recommend our pastors and church leaders collaborate with other ministries and organizations with resources that are available and current to meet the needs of the community. Incidentally, needs of the people foster ministries and new ministries foster church growth and participation.
3. We further recommend that each local church would seek to put in place safety and protective policies and procedures deemed needed for that local body. Also, it is suggested to contact your local police and sheriff departments for additional resources pertaining to church safety. We further recommend Thomas Rainer's seven (7) tips on "How Your Church Should Prepare for an Active Shooter." (Tips Listed Document Upon Request)

Resources: The Bible, AME Zion Book of Discipline, Thom Rainer, "Growing Healthy Churches Together" Ken Watson, "Vital Piety", National Urban League

## **HOW YOUR CHURCH SHOULD PREPARE FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER By: THOM S. RAINER**

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- **Don't be in denial**
- **Have a church security plan**
- **Remember that church security is a ministry more than an expense**
- **Organize a church security ministry team**
- **Keep your facilities secure**
- **Strive for total member awareness**

# WASHINGTON DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018

## *Washington District Mission Ministry Highlights*

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- Donated gift cards for Thanksgiving and toys for Christmas to the Foster and Parent Advocacy Center Charity Program.
- Provided gifts to the Angel Tree Program.
- Participated in the Trunk and Treat activity for the community.
- Took members of the church and community to doctor's appointments and grocery shopping.
- Donated coats, hats, and boots to children
- Feeding programs on a consistent basis
- Prepared gifts for the Angel Tree Project.
- Provided food baskets to needy families.
- Contributed diapers/pampers to families who were victims of Hurricane Harvey.
- Donated to the 2017 My Livingstone-Victory Project.
- Collected clothes for mothers and children at New Beginnings Family Shelter.
- Shared information breast cancer
- Clothing giveaways and feeding at the Community Homeless Shelter
- Continues to provide Bible Study Lessons to the PG County Corrections Department
- Weekly Bible Study at Senior Citizens Centers
- Provided food and gift cards for needy individuals in the community.
- Provided assistance to members of the church who are in need of shelter, provided rides to members in need of a ride to various social service agencies.
- Delivered plush throws to sick and shut-in members.
- Ministered to the homeless in DC parks by providing blankets, hats, gloves, socks, hot soup, and cornbread.





"PURPOSEFUL LIVING: PRAYER, PROCLAMATION, SERVICE"

## BLESSING BAG FOR HOMELESS MEN & WOMEN



Join the Supply Department of the Washington District WH&OMS with donations for and preparation of 300 "Blessing Bags" for homeless men and women in the District of Columbia.

### TRAVEL-SIZED ITEMS NEEDED:

bar soap • deodorant • mouthwash • socks • toothpaste • toothbrush • petroleum jelly • lotion

(Bring donations to the Washington District Conference/Summit--March 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert  
Presiding Elder, Washington District  
Wilhelmina Frazier  
President, WH&OMS  
Washington District  
Barbara E. Murray  
District Supply Secretary  
Washington District

THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT PRESENTS

## The District @ Study

Planting Seeds to Grow Disciples

Working – Learning – Building – Growing

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>  
8 AM – Breakfast  
9 AM – Mass Meeting  
10:30 AM – Mudhouse Sabbath  
by Lauren F. Winner  
12-12:30 PM – Closing Discussion

Trinity AME Zion Church  
3505 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Washington, DC

ALL churches are asked to develop  
Black History displays as part of the Black History Celebration.

For more information contact Rev. Stacey Lytle at [stacejrylytle@gmail.com](mailto:stacejrylytle@gmail.com)

Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert, Presiding Elder  
Mrs. Devieta Moore, Missionary Supervisor  
Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate



Washington District  
of the A.M.E. Zion Church

# BACK SCHOOL<sup>2</sup>

## Prayer Rally & Mass Meeting

Saturday  
August 19, 2017  
Mass Meeting 9am  
Back 2 School Rally 11:00 AM

St. Lucille AME Zion Church  
5100 Astor Place, SE Washington, DC 20019

Children Grooming Supplies  
Food/Music/ The Word  
Prayer School supplies  
Clothing Give Away

Rev. David Elliott, Host Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Rita Colbert, Presiding Elder  
Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor  
Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate

Washington District  
of the A.M.E. Zion Church

WASHINGTON DISTRICT EVANGELISM MINISTRY

# Prayer Meeting

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)

Thursday, March 15, 2018

JOIN US FOR EITHER SESSION  
(12 Noon - 1:00 PM) or (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

UNITED WESLEY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH  
1860 MICHIGAN AVENUE, NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20018

Reverend Dr. Alvin T. Durant, Host Pastor

Rev. Dorothy Peaks And Rev. Gedric Stroud  
District Co-directors Of Evangelism

Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert  
Presiding Elder, Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore  
Missionary Supervisor, Mid-atlantic Episcopal District

Bishop W. Darin Moore  
Presiding Prelate, Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District

# Washington District Local Churches

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## John Wesley A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Christopher Zacharias - 284 Members*

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The congregation welcomed Pastor and Mrs. Zacharias with excitement and great expectations. Several new ministries were introduced which included the Empowerment Academy a monthly training session for laity and ministry leaders. The gentrified community responded positively to the outdoor ministry which included distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday and palms on Palm Sunday. There has been a concerted effort to connect with other churches in the community by hosting an Open House and creative Saturday Programs. The Restoration and Recovery Ministry (former Sick and Shut-In) is a team visitation that includes the Ministerial Staff, Deaconess, Missionaries, Class Leaders and Choir Members. Community outreach includes the House of Ruth, Harriet Tubman and Garrison Elementary School, Central Union Mission, SOME and World of Work.

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## Trinity A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Timothy Freeman – 382 members*

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Under the leadership of Pastor Freeman this congregation has extended its' self in offering Radical Hospitality by hosting the Mid-Atlantic's Celebration of the elevation of Bishop Moore to the Chair of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches. They also hosted the Washington District at Study and Washington District Summit. The congregation partners with the Black Student Fund who provide resources that benefit the church and community youth. As a part of the community outreach over 500 people participated in the "Taste of Trinity." They also held a New Artist Musical Showcase and an Oktoberfest that included a "Trunk-Or-Treat." The Melva Martin Scholarship Ministry continues to provide the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless which included toiletries and a clothing give away. The Youth Ministry provides leadership to Sunday Church School on Fifth Sunday and the children collected wigs for the GW Cancer.



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## Union Wesley A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Alvin Durant – 681 members*

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Multiple opportunities are provided for Bible Study and Leadership Development. Conducted a “Partners in Ministry Conference” with a focus on “Reviewing Our Practices: Connecting Church and Community” that included members from various community organizations and DC Government along with the congregation to explore opportunities for collaboration to meet the needs of the constituents. Several intergenerational panels examined how to share and appreciate each other’s faith, knowledge and life experiences. As an outgrowth of the Lenten Season a bi-weekly exercise ministry was implemented. All Missionary departments along with the Girl Scouts ministered in the parks in DC by giving out blankets, hats and scarves along with hot soup. Other outreach ministries include: the Wesley House, Blair House, Hospital for Sick Children and St. Ann’s Home for Infants.

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## Galbraith A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Pharaad B. Mashal El – 164 members*

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This conference year the Church launched the “Good News Café” which featured Spoken Word artist, musicians, soloist, dramatic presentations and the work of visual artist. The ministerial staff is active in the community in response to issues that impact city parking and wealth management of intercity property. The Clothing Outreach Center is open two days a week to receive and distribute clothing. The monthly meals for the homeless include an interactive Bible Study. Over 630 pieces of clothing is given away monthly.

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## Metropolitan Wesley A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Heath Cheek – 200 members*

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The Creative Arts Ministry has introduced “Theater on The Lawn” dramatic and liturgical ministry which is done live on the lawn of the church. The Tutorial Ministry continues to be successful and is provided twice a week to students of Lafayette Elementary School. The clothing and feeding program is active year-round and the “Kingdom Klostet” was re-established. When the weather permits the Men’s Ministry hold their meetings outside to establish a dialogue with the men who are outside of the church.

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## Contee A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Mark A. Thomas – 240 members*

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Community outreach includes clothing give a-ways, SHARE Site, Angel Tree and Back to School supplies give away. The Children's Ministry is growing and is active on the local and District level. Children and Youth Bible Studies are conducted during the same time as the Adult Studies to encourage young adult attendance. Leadership of ministries by young adults has been encourage and supported by the more seasoned members. The community outreach efforts have been creative and include a Trunk-Or-Treat; Friday Night Movies, a monthly feeding program at the community park, and Dodgeball Challenge. The Senior Ministry is very active and shared information on mail and telephone scams, Medicare and Social Security. The Missionary Society spearheaded an effort to collect toiletries for 400 children who are residences of the DC General Family Shelter. The Church is collaborating with Burrville Elementary School to identify how the Church can provide student support and other resources. Supports the Angel Tree Program

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## Varick Memorial A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Andre' Green – 149 members*

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This newly appointed pastor did not waste any time familiarizing himself with the community by attending community meetings walking the neighborhood to introduce himself to residents. As a result, we have had several visitations from the community and 5 people joined. The Deaconess Board presented a Sex Trafficking Presentation given by an overcomer of sex trafficking. The Pastor's Moments of teaching are a highlight of the Super Saturday meetings. Community Service Projects include; S.O.M.E., DC Food Bank, DC Homeless Shelter and Angel Tree. The Youth Ministry leadership seeks out a variety of opportunities in the community to support projects and provide learning experiences for the youth. Very active Senior Ministry. This year the congregation collected medical supplies for Haiti.

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## North Brentwood A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Brandon J. Pennix, Sr. (33 members)*

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Outreach efforts have increased this year. The Church identified families during the year to support with food, clothes and toys. A supply pantry was established which uses couponing to provide supplemental household items to those in need. North Brentwood joined with



three other churches to form a Senior Bible Study which is held at the Brentwood Community Center. The Culinary Arts Ministry supports shelters in the community.

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## Beth Shalom A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Darrell J. Gaskin – 68 members*

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The STEM Camp this year was held for a week for grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students. Approximately thirty-five students attended daily. Special visitors from INOVA College, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and an electrician helped to make the camp fun and engaging for the participants. Field trips to Howard University and The Air and Space Museum was an extension of the camp. The Sons of Varick supported the Prison Ministry by donating 100 Father's Day Cards to the inmates at the DC Jail. The Men donated Suits to the inmates that were being released from jail to help them be appropriately dressed for job interviews. An Entrepreneurs Workshop was held to give persons insight into the skills required to start a business and encouraged self-reliance. The Charles Strayhorn Scholarship Committee continues to provide support to matriculating students.

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## St. Lucille A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend David G. Elliott – 122 members*

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As the newly appointed Pastor of St. Lucille, Pastor Elliott held a creative and informative Leadership Academy for members and invited participation from other churches on the District. In addition, there was a Lay Academy conducted by Mr. Robert Edmonds, President of the Washington District Lay Council focusing on the theme "Reviewing Our Practices". The Bert's Corner Outreach Ministry has stretched to 2nd St. NW to provide a complete meal, hats and scarves to the homeless. Over 130 people were fed and provided with clothing - shoes and toiletries at the Day's Inn Family Shelter. All ministries under the Missionaries participated in the success of this outreach. A lock in was held for the teenagers, and a Metropolitan Police Officer spoke to the teens about human trafficking. Book bags were given to students at the beginning of the school year. The church also adopted and gave support to the Maya Angelou's School. The first Poetry Café was held and included five special guests from the outside as well as the First Lady, ElBonita Elliott, who was a surprise participant. St. Lucille joins with Contee in ministering at the Larkin Chase Nursing Home.

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## R. L. Jones A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend William H. Dent – 56 members*

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The congregation donated feminine hygiene items, toothbrushes, and running shoes to the “Run for Fun/Black Girls Run Missionary Run” held in the Caribbean. The Christian Education Director participated in the run. The collected items were distributed to ST. Thomas, ST Lucia/Nevis, and Barbados. These islands were devastated by the storms. Ministry outreach includes providing towels, toiletries, and clothes for teens at one of the DC Homeless Shelters and donation of non-perishable items to families. The Annual Fall Church and Community Impact Day was jammed packed starting with cleaning the church and community in the morning and in the afternoon the community was invited to listen to a lecture on Diabetes, guest from Homeland Security, and a presentation on “The Five Wishes.” The team from Homeland Security presented the Washington DC emergency plan. The Saturday Church School continues to grow.

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## Sons and Daughters A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Eddie M. Scarborough, Jr. – 30 members*

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Sons and Daughters in Christ conducted an out-door worship service in front of the church honoring the hurricane victims. Missionaries made it possible for the church to provide over \$250.00 to feed hungry and homeless persons. One was deaf, and the other individuals were deaf and non-verbal yet they came to Sunday Church School and stayed for Worship Services. The YAMS continue helping homeless individuals, ensuring they know where to go to take care of their business, making hospital visits and feeding those in need. They also provide food to the homeless in the form of money and food gift cards. The Pastor is an enthusiastic street evangelist and well known in the community. Community outreach includes ministering at the Bernice Fonteneau Senior Wellness Center.

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## Full Gospel A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend David DeVerteuil - 57 members*

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The congregation continues to partner with Glassmanor Elementary school in a mentorship relationship. They partnered with other churches in the St. Barnabas Road corridor to combine their community outreach efforts. Outreach included a Financial and Wellness seminar where 150 bags of groceries were given away. Full Gospel also partnered with Deliverance Temple to provide meals and minister to homeless persons in SE Washington for Thanksgiving. As a result of the children's coat drive, 50 coats along with hats, scarves and gloves were donated to the Spring Hill Lake Elementary school in Greenbelt, MD. Creative approaches to evangelism included an "Old School, New School" basketball game to build relationships with youth and young adults. As a result, 3 young people became members of the church.

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## Deliverance Temple A.M.E. ZION

*Reverend Dr. Nicole Johnson-Douglas – 10 members*

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Deliverance Temple was successful in obtaining a permanent worship center this year and the Pastor and congregation have positioned themselves as a beacon in the South East DC Community. Deliverance Temple is always in the community engaging in education, evangelism and empowerment. This includes 5 months of Worship in the Park and Vacation Bible School in the Park as well as the Welcome to the Community Cookout. The first Annual Open Table Love Feast was held in partnership with Full Gospel and over 175 people from the community were fed. Other outreach ministries included "Warm Hearts" that gave away 100 children coats, gloves and boots. Food Baskets were also given out at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Church School has grown as the traditional Sunday School is included as a part of the Deliverance Academy, "Saturday Family Academy". The hour that would normally be used on Sunday's for Sunday School is used to hold the Bread of Life Worship which is an opportunity to hold a Breakfast Ministry for those who are homeless and leave the shelters in many cases with no breakfast.

# 2017– 2018 WASHINGTON DISTRICT NECROLOGY REPORT

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Beth Shalom A.M.E.  
Zion - None

Contee A.M.E. Zion  
None

Deliverance  
Temple A.M.E. Zion  
None

Full Gospel A.M.E. Zion  
None

Galbraith A.M.E. Zion  
Mr. James T. Speight, Jr  
Mr. Alexander Hamer, Sr  
Mrs. Elaine J. Haynes  
Ms. Sherry Ricks  
Ms. Beatrice M. Paige  
Mr. George Lewis

John Wesley  
A.M.E. Zion  
Rosa Pittman  
Charlotte Tchoukani  
Edith Amos  
Mollie Q. Covington  
Marion Brooks  
Roy Lake  
Fred Tillman  
Claudia Price

Brother Legrant Campbell  
Sister Gladys Campbell

Metropolitan  
Wesley A.M.E. Zion  
Mr. William “Buck”  
Washington, Jr.

North Brentwood  
A.M.E. Zion  
Ms. Reatha Henry

Raymond L. Jones  
A.M.E. Zion  
Mrs. Patricia Diggs

Saint Lucille A.M.E.  
Zion  
Rev. Dr. Lewis Marco  
Anthony, Pastor  
Deaconess Lillette Cox  
Mother Arcullis Lightfoot

Saint Lucille A.M.E. Zion  
Sis. Estelle Simms  
Bro. William Green  
Sis. Susan Gordy  
Sis. Jannie Jackson

Sons and Daughters in  
Christ A.M.E. Zion  
Rev. Kenneth Louis Davis  
– Baptist Credentials

Trinity A.M.E. Zion  
Mrs. Mildred Stevenson  
Mr. Julious Henderson  
Mrs. Sarah Goodwine  
Mr. William Honablew

Union Wesley  
A.M.E. Zion  
Alma Giles  
John Funderburk  
Mildred Holland  
Rev. Dr. Lewis M.  
Anthony  
Mary Broadnax  
Henrietta Lewis  
Josephine Black  
Jurmene Brown  
Dorene Walls  
Mildred Sawyer  
Ella Crockett  
James W. Lucas  
Doris McNeil  
Odell Franklin  
Erica Carter  
Constance Hackett  
Minnie Gillespie

Varick Memorial  
A.M.E. Zion  
None



# DISTRICT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

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## Women Home and Overseas Missionary Society

- Wilhelmina T. Frazier - President
- Kendra Freeman - Coordinator YAMS
- Brenda Durant- Secretary Youth Missionaries
- Mildred F. Shannon – Superintendent, Buds of Promise
- Barbara E. Murray - Secretary, Supply Department
- Esther Scarborough - Chairperson, Life Members Council
- Annette J. Chisolm - Mission Studies
- Vernell Faunteroy – Recording Secretary
- Carolyn Howard – Corresponding Secretary
- Marilyn Rollins - Treasurer & Chair, Finance Committee
- Linda R. Pettaway - Health Coordinator
- Loveleen “Dee” Perkins - Representative, NCNW
- Sandra Baker - Walk-A-Mile Coordinator
- Adwoa B. Aggrey - Representative, WFMW Loretta Goff - Representative, CWU

## Christian Education

- Rev. Delmar Lytle, Director
- Sis. Shirleeta V. Beck - Director of Adults
- Rev. Stacey Davis Lytle – Director of Young Adults
- Rev. Dr. Nicole Johnson-Douglas - Director of Youth
- Rev. Ranesa Mayo - Asst. Director of Youth
- Ms. Nicole Durant - Director of Children
- Rev. W. Ray Douglas and Rev. Mark Thomas – Co-Directors, Men of Zion
- Dr. Helen Scott-Carter - Christian Education Advisor
- Dr. E. Dewey Wiseman - Director of Church School

## Lay Council

- Robert Edmonds – President

## Evangelism

- Rev. Cedric Stroud & Rev. Dorothy Peaks - Co-Directors

## Home Missions

- Rev. William Dent - Director

## Communications

- Rev. Dr. Nicole Johnson-Douglas, Director

## WASHINGTON DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

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*“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.  
My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26*

Number of Churches ..... 14

Full Members ..... 2552

Conversions ..... 161

Children and Youth Baptized ..... 70

Benevolence ..... \$230,643

thank you

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To the servant leaders identified as pastors, district officers, laity and administrative support team, for being the foundation that has made this District set the standard for all others in this denomination. Your attention to the Call "to serve this present age" continues to be a blessing to those you so willingly give of yourselves to and especially to me as I am blessed to share this journey with you.

To my family both biological and adopted, you continue to offer me something that cannot be bought with silver or gold and that is your unconditional love.

And, of course, I am grateful that God connected me some 49 years ago with my husband, my life mate, James Vernon Colbert. Sr. He makes it easier for me to respond to God's purpose for my life and in the process embraces the journey God has put him on. We are a team and work to be witnesses to the goodness, mercy and unconditional love of God.

A Special Shout Out of love to The Media Team and Lisa Dixon.

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Reverend Dr. Rita J. Colbert, Presiding Elder, Washington District

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate